

Scottish Legal Complaints Commission
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Meghan Gallacher MSP
Deputy Convener
Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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By email only to: EHRCJ.committee@parliament.scot

9 September 2026

Dear Deputy Convener,

Question about the role of the Scottish Legal Complaints Commission

I am writing in relation to an important question you raised at the roundtable evidence session on civil justice in Committee on Thursday 3 September 2026. I'm grateful for your continued interest in the implementation of the Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Act 2025 and I look forward to working with you and the Committee in progressing implementation of the 2025 Act during Session 7.

The 2025 Act represents Parliament's decision on the appropriate legislative framework for legal regulation in Scotland, following detailed parliamentary scrutiny, including by your predecessor Committee. I was grateful for the opportunity to be able to provide evidence during that process and for the careful consideration the Committee gave to the then Bill. The SLCC's focus now is on delivering those responsibilities in a way that maintains public confidence and appropriate safeguards for both the independence of the profession and the independence of regulation from those it regulates. Those were both issues which the Committee and the wider Parliament debated at length during the scrutiny of the Bill, and which go to the heart of a system of regulation that is transparent and accountable.

As you mentioned, the SLCC is currently [consulting on an updated approach to our regulatory oversight powers](#). This consultation, which closes on 18 November 2026, is specifically intended to test our proposed approach with stakeholders and ensure that our oversight functions are exercised proportionately and within the limits of our statutory powers.

This follows a consultation earlier this year on our now published [Regulatory Statement](#), which outlines our understanding of the [regulatory objectives](#) set out in the Act, and our thinking on how we will apply these to our work. Later this year we

will be consulting on updated statutory rules to provide a clear and transparent guide to how we will discharge our powers and remit under the updated legislative framework.

As part of our accountability framework our annual accounts and report are laid in the Scottish Parliament each year. These set out financial and performance data. Audit Scotland also publish an annual audit report on the SLCC. More can be found here:

Annual Report: <https://www.scottishlegalcomplaints.org.uk/about-us/who-we-are/our-annual-report/>

Annual Accounts: <https://www.scottishlegalcomplaints.org.uk/about-us/how-we-are-funded/our-annual-accounts/>

Audit Scotland Report: https://audit.scot/uploads/2025-11/aar_2425_scottish_legal_complaints.pdf

The new legislation (in s81) specifically sets out new details of what we should report on, including how we have discharged our regulatory functions in line with the new regulatory objectives set by the Scottish Parliament. It also requires us to consult on what is contained in annual reports, giving all stakeholders an opportunity to comment on what will help ensure accountability and transparency in the future.

I recognise that extending the SLCC's remit in the 2025 Act raises legitimate questions about how we balance effective regulatory oversight with strong accountability. Our aim is to be clear and transparent about how we will exercise those regulatory powers, and we would welcome the Committee's interest in the outcomes of the consultations we note above.

If I can provide any further information to the Committee that would be helpful on any of these issues, I would be very happy to do so.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Stevenson
Chief Executive